

The Knowledge Bank at The Ohio State University

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KEEPING UP WITH AVIATION

By ROBERT M. EWING, M.E. 3

The giant merger of the T.A.T.-Maddux Air Lines with Western Air Express came as a distinct surprise to most of the aeronautical public but it was a pleasant one for the people of Columbus, for the award of the transcontinental air mail contract to this corporation brings to Columbus a large increase in air traffic. Passenger and mail planes will not only leave Columbus in the morning for the west coast but will also come into the city from New York and points east, shortly after noon. This will also provide Columbus with direct air mail service to the east.

A recent survey of the pay schedules of a representative group of operators of both air mail and passenger lines showed that the pilots on these lines received an average monthly salary of \$550 during the last six months of 1929 and the first six months of this year. Airplane and engine mechanics received an average monthly salary of \$157 during the same period. The pilots received an average monthly base pay of \$189. This sum was increased to an average total monthly salary of \$550 by the addition of certain sums paid by operators for each mile flown, which varied with conditions under which the flying was conducted and depended upon day or night schedules. The additional amounts averaged five cents a mile for day flying and ten cents for night flying. The highest monthly salary was \$850. This was paid by one line to its air mail pilots flying at night.

In August of this year there were 275 women holding airplane pilots licenses granted by the United States Department of Commerce, according to an announcement of officials of that department. In January, 1929, there were 34 women holding licenses; in July, 1929, there were 70; and in January, 1930, there were 126 women pilots. If this keeps up they will be crowding the men out of their jobs and the country will have another unemployment situation on its hands. It is comforting to know, however, that only a very few of these 275 women have transport licenses, most of them being private pilots.

Four beacons have been installed in the corners of the tower of the American Insurance Union. One of these lights points north, one south, one east, and one west. Pilots have reported seeing the west light as far as Dayton on clear nights.

Among the improvements that have taken place at Port Columbus this summer is the erection of bleachers seating a thousand people, just west of the administration building. This is for the purpose of keeping the spectators off of the runways and field while ships are landing and taking off.

Frank Hawks' recent spectacular flight across the continent has again proven him to be one of the country's foremost pilots. It is records of this type which are of some service to aviation rather than continuation of already proven tests.